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Environment and sustainable development: protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind

Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003

Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.2/56/L.41

Statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly

I. Request contained in the draft resolution

1. Under the terms of operative paragraph 5 of draft resolution A/C.2/56/L.41, the General Assembly would approve the continuation of the institutional linkage of the secretariat of the United Nations Framework on Climate Change to the United Nations, and related administrative arrangements, for a further five-year period.

II. Analysis of the proposal and full costs involved

2. With regard to the issue of the continuation of the administrative arrangements within the framework of institutional linkage of the Convention secretariat to the United Nations, it should be recalled that the scope of those arrangements, including financial, personnel and conference-servicing support to the Convention, was initially approved by the General Assembly in its resolution 50/115 of 20 December 1995 on the basis of proposals made by the Secretary-General (A/50/716).

3. Within the scope of those arrangements, the General Assembly agreed at that time that the conference-servicing requirements relating to the servicing of meetings of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and its subsidiary bodies would be included in the calendar of meetings and conferences of the United Nations for the biennium 1996-1997. Since then, the meetings of the Convention bodies have been included in the calendar of meetings and conferences of the United Nations on a biennial basis and the costs relating to conference-servicing of those meetings have been met from the United Nations regular budget. At the same time, all other administrative support and services to the Convention

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secretariat have been provided on a reimbursable basis. Administratively, the responsibility for providing a full range of administrative and conference-servicing support to the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and its secretariat has been delegated to the United Nations Office at Geneva.

4. It should also be recalled that, in the course of the fifty-fifth session of the General Assembly, the Secretary-General submitted an oral statement of programme budget implications with respect to draft decision A/C.2/55/L.48 entitled "Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind" (see A/C.2/55/SR.41, para. 25), in which it was stated that meetings of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and its subsidiary bodies would be taken into account at a time of preparation of a draft calendar of conferences and meetings of the United Nations for the biennium 2002-2003. Those meetings have been programmed and included in the draft revised calendar for the next biennium which is currently under review by the Fifth Committee in the context of its review of the report of the Committee on Conferences for 2001.[1]

5. It was also indicated in the oral statement of programme budget implications that the conference servicing requirements for the biennium 2002-2003 of the meetings of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and its subsidiary bodies would be met from a provision to be made under section 2, General Assembly affairs and conference services, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003, which would be not only for meetings programmed at the time of budget preparation, but also for meetings authorized subsequently, provided that the number and distribution of meetings were consistent with the pattern of meetings per year experienced in the past.

6. Based on the programme of meetings of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and its subsidiary bodies for the biennium 2002-2003, the conference-servicing requirements for the meetings are estimated at $3,393,700, at full cost. These estimates are based on the level and composition of the services for the meetings as detailed in the draft revised calendar for the biennium 2002-2003.

7. In connection with a possibility for continuation of the present arrangements for providing conference services to the Conference and its subsidiary bodies from within existing United Nations resources, the experience of the biennium 2000-2001 and the level of the conference-servicing workload reflected in the draft revised calendar for the biennium 2002-2003 demonstrate that the number and distribution of United Nations meetings are no longer consistent with the past pattern of meetings per year. The present demand in the conference services for the Organization as a whole has far exceeded the annual average pattern of meetings experienced over the previous five years. The overall number of the United Nations meetings to be serviced by the Department of General Assembly Affairs and Conference Services during the biennium 2002-2003 has increased by 9.6 per cent, compared with the number of meetings serviced in the biennium 1998-1999.

8. It is therefore no longer possible to provide a full range of conference servicing to the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies during the biennium 2002-2003 from within the resources proposed under section 2, General Assembly affairs and conference services, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003. Such services to the Convention bodies can now be provided only on a reimbursable basis.

9. In summary, the Secretariat, through the United Nations Office at Geneva, would continue making available to the Convention's intergovernmental bodies and its secretariat the full range of support services, as and when it may be required, provided that those services are extended on a reimbursable basis. The proposed change in the arrangements for the conference services would be reported to the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly, following the provisions of section VI of resolution 45/248 B of 21 December 1990 on issues of the procedures for administrative and budgetary matters and in line with the established procedure for programme budget implications.

III. Conclusions

10. **Should the Second Committee decide to recommend to the General Assembly the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/56/L.41, it would be understood that conference services for the Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Climate Change and its subsidiary bodies would be provided by the United Nations Secretariat during the biennium 2002-2003 on the basis of**

reimbursement of the cost of services from the resources of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. This would represent modification of the arrangements initially established by the General Assembly in resolution 50/115.

11. **It would also be understood that the arrangements referred to in paragraph 10 above would constitute the means by which the administrative arrangements within the meaning of operative paragraph 5 of the draft resolution would be implemented in the biennium 2002-2003. On that understanding, no additional appropriations under the regular budget of the United Nations would be required as a result of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/56/L.41.**

Notes

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 32* (A/56/32), annex.